

September 18, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

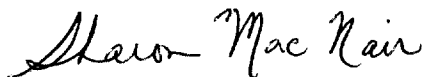
I am writing in support of the petition to stop the starvation and forced molting of hens in the United States. It is critical that these practices be discontinued. It is bad enough that these birds are being raised in unnatural environments and are forced to endure severely overcrowded conditions. It is almost unthinkable that their misery is added to by being starved.

At least 75% of the over 200 million hens in North America suffer this torture of a forced molting period so as to bring about a new laying cycle. Molting, of any bird, is intended to occur gradually over time. For hens, that period is roughly four months. When a hen's body is manipulated to molt more quickly, it causes great stress to the animal. Many hens will die during the (up to) 14-day period in which they are being starved. Those who survive through the ordeal may be kept in cages with the hens who have already died.

Not only does this pose a potentially high risk of infection and disease among the hens, but those who consume the eggs are also at risk. Most consumers are not aware of what goes on in these factories, but I am sure that many would not risk their health if they knew the consequences.

When making your final decision, please let your conscience be your guide.

Sincerely,



Sharon MacNair

16 Black Willow Lane

Shelburne, VT 05482

98N 1230

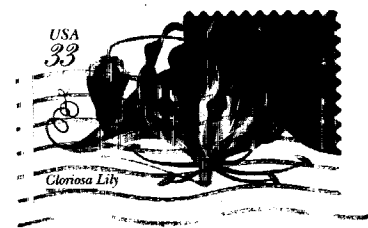
C 700

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C700

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C701
96P-0418/C700

Ms. Sharon Mac Nair
16 Black Willow Ln
Shelburne VT 05482-6367
The HSUS - Helping End Cruelty to Animals



Dockets Mgt Branch (HFA-305)
FDA: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197
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